

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. Most bills, even those written during an election by the government, when citizens are suppose to make an accurate decision, are made to confuse the public, the consumer, the citizen.

It is outlandish that deception is still the alternative to the truth.

When a politician wants me to vote for something, even if the issue is clear, if that bill is written in a deceptive or confusing way, I will not vote for it.

I feel the same about the way a business presents itself. A consumer should only pay for the facts and not be tricked into paying for something that is not made clear to them.

Deceptive practices by the phone companies must be stopped.

I will not back any official who thinks otherwise.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.